

## CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

**Title of publication:** Fifty Shades of Grey

**Other known title(s):** Not stated

**OFLC ref:** 1800136.000

**Medium:** Blu-ray disc

**Director:** Sam Taylor-Johnson

**Producer:** Michael De Luca  
E.L. James  
Dana Brunetti

**Country of origin:** United States

**Language:** English

**Applicant:** Universal Pictures

<b>Classification:</b>	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.
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**Excisions:** No excisions recommended

**Descriptive note:** Sex scenes, offensive language and nudity

**Display conditions:** None

**Date of entry in Register:** 06 June 2018

**Date of direction to issue a label:** 06 June 2018

**Date of notice of decision:** No notice of decision has been issued

	Components	Running time
<b>Feature(s):</b>	Fifty Shades of Grey (Theatrical version)	125:15
	Fifty Shades of Grey (Unseen version)	128:29
<b>Timed component(s):</b>	Tease of Fifty Shades Darker	0:29
	The World of Fifty Shades of Grey: Christian Grey (x5)	19:51
	The World of Fifty Shades of Grey: Ana (x4)	13:50
	The World of Fifty Shades of Grey: Friends and Family (x7)	12:38
	Behind the Shades	19:28

	E.L. James & Fifty Shades	5:45
	Fifty Shades: The Pleasure of Pain	8:42
	Music Videos (x2)	9:45
	Behind the Scenes of "Earned It (Fifty Shades of Grey)"	4:49
<b>Untimed component(s):</b>	Christian's Apartment: 360 Tour	
<b>Total running time:</b>		349:01

### Summary of reasons for decision:

The classification of this film has been altered from the R18 classification it received in 2015, and reclassified with a lower age restriction of R16. The application for reclassification was made by the distributor due to increased public literacy, knowledge and understanding of BDSM practices since the film's first release. After consultations with young people and experts in media studies and adolescent development, it is clear that restriction to adults is not a reasonable limitation on the right to freedom of expression. Many teenagers 16 years and older have the capacity to critically engage with the text, and at that age are already experimenting with sexual activity. Many will have at least some kind of understanding, not only of sex, but also of negotiated consent and an awareness of BDSM related activities. All of these factors mitigate the potential harm that viewing the publication is likely to have. An R16 classification is a reasonable and justified limitation on the right to freedom of expression, as it limits access by younger teenagers without unnecessarily excluding older teenagers from the potential audience.